

**SECTION F: GROUNDWATER AQUIFER RECHARGE SUB-ELEMENT**

**GOAL:** Safeguard the functions of the natural groundwater recharge areas within the County to protect the water quality and quantity in the Floridan Aquifer.

**Vision:** We will have a safe, healthy and family oriented community with self-sufficient, involved people and appropriate infrastructure to enhance its beauty, natural resources and environment.

**Objective 5F.1:** By 2010 protect groundwater resources by identifying and mapping all Areas of High Aquifer Recharge Potential to the Floridan Aquifer in Bay County by using the data and analysis contained in the *Deer Point Lake Hydrologic Analysis – Deer Point Lake Watershed*, prepared by Applied Technology and Management, Inc., dated July 2009.

*Public Purpose: Promote the conservation, replenishment, recapture, enhancement, development, and proper utilization of groundwater (s.373.016, s.403.021, F.S.).*

*Performance Measure: Regulation of uses that could contaminate or reduce groundwater resources.*

**Policy 5F.1.1:** Utilize the map of High Aquifer Recharge Areas to establish an Ecosystem Management Overlay in the Conservation Element where specific land use regulations pertaining to aquifer water quality and quantity shall apply.

**Policy 5F.1.2:** The Dougherty Karst Region of Northern Bay County shall be delineated and included as a High Aquifer Recharge Area due to its importance as a recharge area to the Floridan Aquifer which provides the majority of the flow to Econfinia Creek.

**Policy 5F.1.3:** Land Development Regulations shall limit or prohibit land uses that may discharge substances that could infiltrate and degrade the groundwater quality in areas identified as high recharge potential.

**Policy 5F.1.4:** Agricultural activities in areas of high recharge potential shall utilize “Best Management Practices” as recommended by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Northwest Florida Water Management District, and the Division of Forestry to eliminate the potential for entry of agricultural chemicals into the groundwater.

**Policy 5F.1.5:** In conjunction with the current study and test well siting underway with the NFWFMD in Bay County, the County shall establish a wellhead/wellfield protection ordinance. The wellhead/wellfield protection ordinance shall, at minimum establish the zones of influence and/or areas for protection for each public wellfield and permit regional wellfields to serve a multi-purpose function, such as conservation and passive public recreational facilities.

**Objective 5F.2:** Coordinate activities with the Department of Health to ensure that existing and new Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal Systems (OSTDS) are properly maintained and functioning, and that potential threats to human health and groundwater degradation are minimized. [9J-5.011(2) (b) 1]

**Policy 5F.2.1:** Coordinate activities with the Department of Health to prepare and distribute information regarding recommended inspection and maintenance practices for failing septic tank systems including the frequency of inspection, maintenance guidelines, and qualifications for maintenance professionals.

**Objective 5F.3:** Protect groundwater from stormwater contaminants of roadway runoff.

**Policy 5F.3.1:** Reduce stormwater non-point source pollution flows by requiring porous pavement systems for the roads and driveways, and native plants for the roadside shoulders and drainage systems.

**Policy 5F.3.2:** Develop an aquifer protection program including public education, coordination with appropriate agencies, provision of adequate collection, and disposal facilities in order to limit the amount of contaminants reaching the surficial or Floridan aquifers.

**Policy 5F.3.3:** The County shall continue following Ch. 62-7, F.A.C. regulations at all County solid waste disposal facilities to protect the water quality of the Floridan and surficial aquifers.

**Objective 5F.4:** Land development regulations shall limit or prohibit land uses in High Aquifer Recharge Areas that may potentially contribute to significant drawdown of the Floridan Aquifer.

**Policy 5F.4.1:** High Aquifer Recharge Areas appropriate for residential and low impact commercial structures shall be developed by 2010 using the *Deer Point Lake Hydrologic Analysis – Deer Point Lake Watershed*, prepared by Applied Technology and Management, Inc. dated July 2009 so as to continue to maintain pre-development net retention. New stormwater management projects in existing developed areas should be designed in a manner that provides for aquifer recharge.

**Policy 5F.4.2:** Require “low impact development” technology such as porous asphalt, bio-retention, and other innovative methods for infiltrating, metering, and treating stormwater run-off in areas of high aquifer recharge.

**Policy 5F.4.3:** Continue to enforce current wetland protection regulations in the Land Development Regulations to ensure aquifer replenishment.

**Policy 5F.4.4:** In connection with Policy 5F.4.2 develop a comprehensive public education program for businesses and residents to reinforce water conservation practices, the fragility of the aquifer, methods to reuse and conserve water, well abandonment problems and rules, and benefits of water efficient landscaping.

**Policy 5F.4.5:** Bay County Utilities shall promote the efficient use of water supplies as outlined in the Potable Water Sub-Element of this Plan.

**Policy 5F.4.6:** Require the use of recovered wastewater as required in the Potable Water and Wastewater Sub-Elements of this Plan.